

# THE *Ivy* LEAF

UNITED STATES DIVISION - NORTH



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

★★★★★ ESTABLISHED IN 1917 TO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVE ★★★★★

NOV. 05, 2010



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shawn Miller, 109th MPAD, USD-N PAO

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. David G. Perkins, commanding general of Task Force Ironhorse and the 4th Infantry Division, addresses commanders, Soldiers, and guests during a transfer of authority ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Nov. 4. Perkins replaces Maj. Gen. Anthony Cucolo, commander of Task Force Marne and 3rd Infantry Division.

## Task Force Marne cases colors, Task Force Ironhorse takes lead in northern Iraq

**By Sgt. Shawn Miller**  
**109th Mobile Public**  
**Affairs Detachment**  
**U.S. Division-North**

After 13 months in command, Maj. Gen. Anthony Cucolo, commanding general of Task Force Marne and the 3rd Infantry Division, relinquished control of U.S. Division-North to 4th Infantry Division Commanding General Maj. Gen. David G. Perkins and the Soldiers of Task Force

Ironhorse, Nov. 4.

Gen. Lloyd Austin, commanding general of United States Forces-Iraq, attended the transfer of authority ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Speicher as the reviewing officer, and offered his thanks for the accomplishments of the "Dog Face" Soldiers of Task Force Marne.

"We endeavor to help Iraq achieve national unification, build effective institutions and foster constructive relation-

ships with other countries in the region," said Austin. "The Marne Division has played a critical role in setting the conditions to make this happen."

Austin praised the efforts and cooperation of American Soldiers and their Iraqi colleagues, who in the last year have trained and mentored the Iraqi Security Forces as Operation Iraqi Freedom transitioned to Operation New Dawn.

"Our vision is an enduring partnership with a sovereign,

stable, self-reliant and unified Iraq that contributes to the peace and security of the region," said Austin.

Austin also said there is no commander more fitting to follow Cucolo than Perkins, adding that the easy transition between the two headquarters was the hallmark of a successful transfer of authority.

Upon the order of the USF-I commanding general,

See TOA, pg. 3

STEADFAST AND LOYAL IRONHORSE FIT FOR ANY TEST ARMY STRONG LONGKNIFE WARRIOR

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## THE IVY LEAF

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1st Advise and  
Assist Task Force,  
1st Armored Division

2nd Advise and  
Assist Brigade,  
25th Infantry Division

4th Advise and  
Assist Brigade,  
1st Cavalry Division

## TASK FORCE IRONHORSE

Commanding General – Maj. Gen. David G. Perkins  
Command Sergeant Major – Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel A. Dailey

## TASK FORCE IRONHORSE PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

TF Ironhorse PAO – Lt. Col. Steve Wollman  
TF Ironhorse PA NCOIC – Master Sgt. Carmen Daugherty-Glaze  
TF Ironhorse Layout & Designer – Spc. Thomas Bixler

IA TRAINS ON FUNDAMENTALS  
FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

PAGE 4

CACHE SEARCH DEMON-  
STRATES IA CAPABILITIES

PAGE 5

WARRIORS COMPETE IN  
HISTORIC RACE

PAGE 7

FAMILY FOCUS:  
COMMUNITY DISCOUNT CARD

PAGE 8

# COMMANDING GENERAL'S COMMENTS:

## TASK FORCE IRONHORSE WRITES NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF 4TH INF. DIV., IRAQ



**Maj. Gen. David G. Perkins**  
**Commanding General**  
**United States Division-North and 4th Infantry Division**

Greetings from Contingency Operating Base Speicher, headquarters for United States Division-North, located approximately 170 miles north of Baghdad, near the city of Tikrit in northern Iraq.

November 4 marked the beginning to another chapter of the

long and storied history of the 4th Infantry Division, the "Ivy" Division. Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Dailey and I unfurled the colors of the 4th Inf. Div. signifying the commencement of Task Force Ironhorse's partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces and reaffirmed this division's steadfast commitment during our new mission in support of the Government and people of Iraq.

Task Force Ironhorse salutes the Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division, as they depart for Fort Stewart, Ga., having completed a 13-month deployment. These consummate professionals always placed the mission first, and set the conditions for our continued success.

Maj. Gen. Anthony Cucolo and the "Dog Faced" Soldiers of Task Force Marne, 3rd Inf. Div., worked tirelessly to insure that our Soldiers experienced a seamless transition as the 4th Inf. Div. assumed command of U.S. Division-North. Their unyielding resolve and heroic actions in assuring security for northern Iraq helped to usher in the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the beginning of a "New Dawn," in accordance with the Iraqi Security Agreement.

As we posted the division colors in front of the U.S. Division-North Headquarters, Task Force Ironhorse assumed responsibility for an area encompassing approximately 215,000 square kilometers, an area slightly smaller than the state of Colorado.

Northern Iraq consists of seven provinces; Ninewa, Salah Ad Din, Kirkuk, Diyala, Sulaymaniyah, Irbil and Dahuk. The approximately 6.5 million Iraqis who live throughout these provinces hail from a rich ethnic background and cultural heritage that includes Sunni and Shia Arabs, Kurds and Turkoman and Yizidi minorities. This diversity makes for a dynamic environment that will require the extent of our capabilities, knowledge, professionalism and experience as we train, assist and mentor our Iraqi partners as they continue to build security and stability for Iraq.

With this challenging new mission, our headquarters joins a team of U.S. forces, who hail from across the U.S. Army and our sister services. Brothers and sisters in arms, each brings a full measure of talent and skill, ensuring standards of excellence in our daily operations, guaranteeing nothing less than mission success. As the 4th Inf. Div. begins Operation New Dawn, Task Force Ironhorse assumes responsibility for Soldiers of the 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; the 4th Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division,

**Continued from GENERAL'S COMMENTS, pg. 2**

out of Fort Hood, Texas; and the 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, part of the 1st Infantry Division, from Fort Riley, Kan., as well as service members of the U.S. Navy and Air Force.

Our Soldiers are amongst the best trained and best equipped Soldiers in the U.S. Army; they are of the same mettle that has been characteristic of the "Ivy" Division for nearly a century, and are ready for the many challenges that lie ahead. Every Soldier, Sailor and Airman deployed with us today plays an important role in ensuring that the 4th Inf. Div. team remains mission ready.

During the next year, Soldiers of the "Ivy" Division are tasked to write the closing chapters for U.S. forces in Iraq. Our Soldiers will train, equip, advise and assist the Iraqi Security Forces, and work to improve the quality of life for the Iraqi people as our mission has transitioned into a supporting role. I know that our Soldiers will accomplish this task to standard, and complete the

mission with honor and pride.

Since the first days of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 4th Inf. Div. has played a significant role during its many deployments to Iraq. Our Soldiers pulled Saddam Hussein from a hole in the ground, secured Baghdad in the tumultuous days before the surge, and laid siege to insurgent hotbeds in the nation's capital to ensure a budding democracy had time to flourish and grow as a security force stood up to defend and protect its people from violence and hatred.

For many of us who have been here before, there is a degree of personal and professional satisfaction as we assist our Iraqi partners in their ongoing efforts to provide security, stability and progress — completing this chapter in the history of the 4th Infantry Division. Steadfast and Loyal!

**Continued from TOA, pg. 1**

Cucolo joined Command Sgt. Maj. Byron Loyd, acting command sergeant major of Task Force Marne, and together the command team ceremoniously cased the colors flowing with campaign steamers, an act signifying the end of their responsibility to U.S. Division-North.

The mission complete, Cucolo thanked the Iraqi Security Forces, to include the Kurdish Security Forces who secure the northern borders of Iraq, for their professionalism and continuing support of U.S. forces.

"At this moment of departure, I owe my gratitude to many for their support," said Cucolo, thanking the brigade commanders, Soldiers and Iraqi leaders.

Speaking before a crowd of commanders, dignitaries and officials, American and Iraqi alike, the outgoing commander expressed his appreciation for the units under his command and thanked the Soldiers of Task Force Marne for their service.

"Task Force Marne's time

in U.S. Division-North was a mix of grey 'Wolves' and 'Blackjacks', 'Dragons' and 'Arrowheads,' 'Demons' and 'Lightning'; groups of 'Warriors' and 'Spartans'; an outfit that is 'Ready First,' a handful of 'Devils,' and a passel of very sharp 'Long Knives;' and of course, 'Dog Face' Soldiers — the finest crosscut of American society in uniform," Cucolo said proudly, referring to the call signs of the many units that served with Task Force Marne during his command.

Once the remarks were complete, Perkins, accompanied by Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel A. Dailey, the senior enlisted leader of the 4th Inf. Div., completed the time-honored military tradition, unfurling the "Ivy" Division colors and signaling the beginning of a new chapter in the history of U.S. forces in Iraq.

The solemn act signified the beginning of Task Force Ironhorse's new mission to advise, train and assist Iraqi Security Forces in their ongoing mission to provide security and stability for the people of northern Iraq.

"I will endeavor to maintain the gains you have accomplished and continue to display inspired leadership, and use you as an example," said Perkins, wishing the departing



**U.S. Army Gen. Lloyd Austin, U.S. Forces-Iraq commanding general, addresses Iraqi leaders, U.S. forces, and distinguished guests during the U.S. Division-North Transfer of Authority ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Nov. 4. The 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Ironhorse, assumed responsibility for the area of operations in northern Iraq from the 3rd Infantry Division.**



**U.S. Army photos by Sgt. Shawn Miller, 109th MPAD, USD-N PAO**

**U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Anthony Cucolo, Task Force Marne and 3rd Infantry Division commander, left, and Command Sgt. Maj. Byron Loyd, case the 3rd Inf. Div. colors as control of United States Division-North is transferred to the 4th Infantry Division's Task Force Ironhorse, during a transfer of authority ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq Nov. 4.**



# IA trains on fundamentals for future success

By Spc. Robert England  
2nd AAB Public Affairs  
25th Inf. Div., USD-N

Simulated gunshots rang throughout a vast expanse of palm trees and wilted undergrowth. Iraqi Army soldiers, in desert camouflage uniforms, shout commands to each other, operating as a collective unit as they steadily advanced toward their objective.

An American Soldier, role-playing as the enemy for training purposes was immobilized from simulated gunshots. After the Iraqi platoon secured the objective, an IA Soldier inspected the simulated enemy for anything dangerous or suspicious.

Although this was an exercise, the earnestness and intensity in each IA Soldier's actions demonstrated their commitment to learning in a training environment.

Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, conducted a series of training operations with their Iraqi Army counterparts throughout the month of October in a palm grove in Diyala



Photos by Spc. Robert England, 2nd AAB PAO, 25th Inf. Div., USD-N

**Specialist Sam Krasnican, a gunner with B Company, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment "Gimlets," 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, congratulates an Iraqi Army Soldier who completed the palm grove training course at Forward Operating Base Cruz-Morris, Diyala province, Iraq, Oct. 21. The Gimlets conducted this training to assist the IA in preparing for security operations in woodland environments.**

province, Iraq.

The training began with an introduction of all Company B Soldiers that the IA soldiers would be working with, followed by instruction on maintenance and operation of their weapons; in this case, the

M-16A2 rifle.

"Day one was introduction," said Sgt. Christopher Burnham, a Council Bluffs, Iowa native and team leader assigned to Company B. "We introduced all the guys that would be working with the IA soldiers and then we covered basic weapon orientation with the M-16 – how to break them down, clean them, put them back together and perform functions checks. From there we went to zero and qualification, teaching them the fundamentals of shooting."

Once a level of familiarity was established with the weapon, Gimlet Soldiers began to teach the IA soldiers maneuvers specific to a woodland environment through battle drills and constant repetition.

"As with anybody, repetitive training is good just because it helps to foster muscle memory," Burnham said. "If they do it over and over and over, it helps to stick with them

a lot better."

Throughout the course of the eight-day training cycle, the IA Soldiers learned individual movement techniques, buddy team maneuvers and react-to-contact drills.

The training culminated in a situational training exercise that required the IA platoons to demonstrate proficiency on all course objectives, including movement, maneuver and medical skills in dense vegetation.

"We started them off with individual and buddy team maneuvers, getting them familiar with how to move with more than one person – while one person is moving, the other person is laying down suppressive fire," Burnham said. "Then we moved up to full fire-team maneuvers, then squad and platoon level. After they got the training for six days, we ran them through the palm grove



**Staff Sgt. Anthony Valle, a squad leader with Company B, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment "Gimlets," 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, supervises Iraqi Army soldiers during a training exercise at a palm grove in Diyala province, Iraq, Oct. 21. The Gimlets conducted this training to assist the IA in preparing for security operations in woodland environments.**

25th Infantry Division

See FUTURE, pg. 6



# Cache search demonstrates IA capabilities

**By Spc. Matthew Keeler**  
**103rd Sustainment Command**  
**Public Affairs**

The Soldiers from Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, and Iraqi Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 17th Infantry Brigade, 4th Division, conducted a weapons cache search in the desert of Jazeera, Iraq, Oct. 19.

More than 70 Iraqi and U.S. Division-North Soldiers convoyed into the deserts in search of a suspected cache.

"We received a call from 3 Bn. 17 Bde. IA that they were conducting a cache search based off intelligence they have been gathering for quite some time," said Capt. Michael McGill, battery commander, Battery C, 2nd Bn., 11th FA Regt., 2nd AAB, 25th Inf. Div. "We are just here to support them with some of our enablers to search the site."

Battery C provided the use of explosive ordnance disposal personnel, engineer route clearance teams, and a team of military working dogs to thoroughly investigate the area for any munitions.

"This is a standard mission for my guys," McGill said. "What's different with this mission, however, is the Iraqi Army is in the lead."

During the mission, the IA Soldiers moved on foot to an abandoned shack and began to search the building for munitions.

Once the building was cleared, IA soldiers requested the assistance of the engineers to bring in a Vehicle Mounted Mine Detection System to sweep the nearby flatlands for any Improvised Explosive Devices.

"This really is a great thing to see," McGill said. "Often, in operations like this, U.S. Soldiers are the ones moving about in conjunction with the Iraqi Army, but these guys are telling us how to use our assets."

He said the IA skills have gradually improved throughout the years of U.S. assistance; the cache search affirmed his belief the Iraqi soldiers are close to achieving sole responsibility of their country's security.

McGill said he worked with the IA on previous deployments teaching them basic soldier skills like marksmanship and first aid.

"Now, I'm seeing them fully organized



**Staff Sergeant Michelle Colon, 95th Military Police Battalion, Joint Base Balad's Canine Unit, searches the area for potential weapon caches with her military working dog, while Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, provide security in the Jazeera Desert, Iraq. The joint operation was initiated by Iraqi army troops who requested support from military dogs, and EOD to check for possible weapon caches.**

and operational," he said.

The U.S. forces and Iraqi soldiers worked side-by-side as one team. Although the operation did not expose a cache, it did expose one visible sight, Iraqi Soldiers putting their training into effect, McGill said.

"It's really night and day from my first tour here," he said. "It's an eye opener that progress has really been made in this country."

Spc. Sean McCoy, a cannon crew member also assigned to Battery C, summed up the feelings of his comrades in a few simple words.

"They are making headway in being able to take over completely," he said. "We provided a few assets but it's like we almost didn't need to be here."

For the Soldiers of 2nd Bn. 11th FA Reg., the search provided them first-hand experience with Iraqi Soldiers capable of executing internal security missions and U.S. Soldiers in an advisory role.

**Iraqi Army soldiers check the ground for a potential weapons cache during a joint mission between Iraqi Army and U.S. Army soldiers in the Jazeera Desert, Iraq, Oct. 19. The Iraqi Army led the mission while American Soldiers assigned to Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division assisted in an advisory role.**



Photos by Spc. Matthew Keeler, 103rd Sustainment Command, Public Affairs



Continued from FUTURE, pg. 4



Spc. Robert England

**Spc. Sean McFarland, a grenadier with Company B, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment "Gimlets," 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, observes an Iraqi Army soldier as he takes aim at a simulated enemy during a training exercise, Oct. 21, at a palm grove in Diyala province, Iraq. The Gimlets conducted this training to assist the IA in preparing for security operations in woodland environments.**

so they could actually get a feel for how much different it is rather than inside the city or even a flat open area."

Prior to the beginning of the palm grove training exercises, Soldiers from 1st Bn. 21st Inf. Reg. conducted a demonstration for senior IA officers, showing proper clearing techniques in a densely wooded area, Sept. 30.

The demonstration came at the request of senior IA officers from the 5th IA Division in response to a palm grove clearance operation in Al Hadeed, Diyala province, Iraq in September, during which the IA suffered several casualties.

These losses caused the IA commanders to reassess their tactics. They determined that formal training would be necessary to effectively operate in what was a new environment for the soldiers.

IA soldiers are well-versed

in urban locales. Their primary focus for much of Operation Iraqi Freedom was eliminating insurgent activity inside city limits through the effective use of security checkpoints and counterinsurgency raids.

Operating procedures in a palm grove are as drastically different from those in an urban environment as the terrain itself. Security and engagement maneuvers vary, and though the enemy may be the same, their behavior is different as well.

"In the cities, we would have to look out for snipers in windows and on top of roofs, as well as improvised explosive devices, but out in the palm groves it is a completely different environment," said Spc. Hussein Ali Abehe, a Soldier with 5th Brigade, 5th IA Div. "In the cities, when we would raid a house, we might only use three Soldiers. In the palm groves, we need the entire platoon to work effectively."

"The terrain is all different; you're not working with buildings or alleyways," said Spc. Sean McFarland, a Farmington, N.M. native, and grenadier with Company B. "As far as the cover that is available to use, it's completely different."

Gimlet Soldiers conducting the training noted the IA soldiers' progress applying these new maneuvers despite a relatively short training period.

"When we started moving up from individual movement techniques to buddy team movements, squad and platoon movements, you can see, within the last few days of this eight-day training cycle, a huge difference in their weapon safety as well as their ability to communicate with each other," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Valle, a squad leader with Company B from San Antonio, Texas.

The Gimlets established personable working relationships with the IA soldiers they

trained as well.

"It's actually really cool working with these guys because they have been trained before by American troops and a lot of it shows, a lot these guys have retained the stuff they have been taught," Sgt. Burnham said. "These guys have great character – they joke around with each other, they have good teamwork, good cohesion."

"I've been working with the American Army for six years, and I feel much more confident with the things they have taught us," Spc. Abehe said.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Molinari, battalion commander, 1-21 Inf. Reg. said the confidence in the American Soldiers' abilities to properly train and prepare the IA for the complete assumption of responsibility of security operations in the region is indicative of the relationship between U.S. and Iraqi Forces as a whole.

The ability to relate with each other strengthens the bonds between Soldiers from both armies and lays a secure foundation on which both nations can build a mutual partnership for the future Lt. Col. Molinari said.

"Training is the centerpiece of the future strategic relationship between the Iraqi and U.S. Armies," he said. "It facilitates good will, relationships and the exchange of methods and techniques for military operations. Training events and exchanges allow our militaries to interpret and truly understand how to bridge cultural differences and achieve combined unity of effort to overcome common security concerns."

Lieutenant Colonel Molinari said that though it may seem like a training exercise, when viewed through a wider scope, this training contributes to security in Iraq as well as overall stability in the region.

"This training assists in

transitioning the Iraqi Army from urban counterinsurgency operations to rural security operations targeting insurgent sanctuaries," he said. "The Iraqi Army continues to push its security focus out to border security and external threats which is where most armies focus. The Iraqi Army is good at urban operations and has a history of rural operations that just needed some refresher training to appreciate maneuvers in dense palm groves."

Each IA soldier was presented with a certificate of completion during an award ceremony following the conclusion of the final training exercise. The true reward, however, is the added confidence of the soldiers' ability to effectively defend their country from any threat in any environment.



Spc. Robert England

**First Lt. Brian Dommer, a platoon leader with Company B, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment "Gimlets," 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, role-plays as an enemy during training purposes on Oct. 21, at a palm grove in Diyala province, Iraq. The Gimlets conducted this training to assist the Iraqi Army in preparing for security operations in woodland environments.**

# ★★★★ LIVING THE DREAM ★★★★★

## Warriors compete in historic race

By Spc. Robert England  
2nd AAB Public Affairs  
25th Inf. Div., USD-N

Cool, dry air filled the lungs, filtering oxygen into bloodstreams flowing directly to the thumping hearts, of more than 200 anxious, adrenaline-fueled competitors. Each prepared to embark on a grueling journey that would test their mental toughness as much as it would challenge their physical endurance – until a voice broke the silence.

“On your mark, get set, go!”

Stopwatches clicked as the racers launched forward in a mass of heaving chests and calculated breaths leaving the starting line in their dust.

In the spirit of a U.S. Army tradition, Soldiers and Department of Defense contractors competed together in the Army Ten-Miler at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Diyala province, Iraq, Oct. 24.

The first Army 10-miler took place in Washington D.C. in 1985. It was a way for runners to show their support for the Army, build esprit de corps and maintain physical fitness.

This year, for two Soldiers in particular, it meant something more.

Capt. Todd Stanford, a Huntington, Penn. native, and the chief of future operations, 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, and 2nd Lt. Sean Meberg of Park River, N.D., request for information and daily tactical update manager, 2nd AAB, 25th Inf. Div., said their motivation for running the race was a little different than the others – they wanted to make a statement.



Photo by Spc. Robert England, 2nd AAB PAO, 25th Inf. Div., USD-N

**Second Lieutenant Sean Meberg, request for information and daily tactical update manager for 2nd Advise and Assist Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, and Capt. Todd Stanford, the chief of future operations for 2-25th AAB, press forward during the Army Ten-Miler at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Diyala province, Iraq Oct. 24. Capt Stanford said they accomplished this feat of endurance to honor their fallen comrades.**

While the majority of the participants donned sports attire, either the Army Physical Training uniform or civilian running gear, Stanford and Meberg ran in their Army Combat Uniforms, wearing Improved Outer Tactical Vests and carrying their weapons.

“The reason Lt. Meberg and myself wanted to run that way is we wanted to honor our fallen comrades, our brothers and sisters in arms that have died fighting the three campaigns

we’ve been in since 9/11,” Stanford said.

Stanford said they also ran in their gear for Soldiers that are currently deployed.

He said it was important to acknowledge the fact that there are things that Soldiers have seen and experienced that can be difficult to cope with, but that Soldiers possess an inner strength that helps them press on and complete the mission.

The primary function of the IOTV is protecting its wearer

in potentially hostile environments. It also allows Soldiers to conveniently carry and access enabling tools such as canteens of water and extra magazines for their weapons by attaching them directly to the vest.

The vest, coupled with heavy, bulletproof plates, padding and the weight of the accoutrements, made for a substantial load.

“With our weapons and plates, 200 rounds of ammunition and canteens of water, it was about 50 pounds,” Stanford said.

Completing the race with an additional 50 pounds attached to their bodies required the Warriors to physically prepare for the rigorous undertaking.

They trained for the event by running while wearing their IOTVs, increasing the distance incrementally throughout the month leading up to the race.

“About once a week, Lt. Meberg and I would go out and do IOTV runs,” Stanford said. “We started out with two miles, and for the last one we did about ten days before the event, we did seven miles.”

Although these Soldiers were preparing to run in their IOTVs, Meberg said they still wanted to get a feel for how long the race would take without the vests.

“We increased the distance and the time, and about a week before, we did the whole ten miles in just PTs to see how long it would take to do it that way,” he said.

The goal in most races is to finish first. Stanford and Meberg, however, knew they

**See WARRIORS, pg. 9 —**



## FAMILY FOCUS

★★★★★ FT CARSON, COLORADO ★★★★★

# Community Discount Card

FORT CARSON, Colo. – Beginning in April, the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation began distributing the free Mountain Post Hero's Discount card to aid Soldiers and their Families during a deployment.

"The Mountain Post Heroes Card provides the Families of deployed Soldiers with significant value-based discounts 60-days prior to deployment through 60-days after redeployment within the local Fort Carson and Colorado Springs' business communities," said Col. Todd Heussner, commander, 4th Infantry Division Rear Detachment.

"The program demonstrates that the community recognizes the value of their service and demonstrates the communities' resolve to help Soldiers and their Families in return for their service," added Heussner. "The community wants to help in any way possible, and this program is their way of showing us that they are behind us."

Heussner stressed the need to support the businesses who have offered their assistance to Soldiers and their Family members.

"Families can go to the MPHDC website at <http://www.myfortcarsonmwr.com>, to see who offers discounts and then go to those businesses to demonstrate that we appreciate their support and assistance," he said. "Families have the opportunity to

save a significant amount of money by using the card and by supporting those businesses we will encourage others to join the program."

Sean Stewart, DFMWR marketing, said many of the eligible users have been issued a MPHDC and some have already begun to participate in the program.

"We are trying to promote better awareness of the program," Stewart said. "We are working with the commanders to follow-up with eligible users to ensure they know exactly what the program is about, allowing them to take part in the program," Stewart said.

Connie Roy, 4th Inf. Div. Family Readiness Support Assistant, said the MPHDC is a great initiative and serves as an additional benefit to deployed Soldiers and their Families.

"It is one more thing to help recognize the service and sacrifice of our Soldiers," Roy said. "When their Family members use the card, businesses are able to see them and recognize them for their sacrifice as well."

For more information regarding the card, spouses and Family members of deployed Soldiers should contact their Family Readiness Group Leaders, and Soldiers should contact their chain of command.

## MWR EVENTS Nov. 2010

### COMICS READY TO ENTERTAIN

NOV. 4 - WARHORSE

NOV. 5 - WARRIOR

### THRILL WRITERS TOUR

NOV. 10 - MAREZ

### PHIL VANDEL

NOV. 13 - WARHORSE

NOV. 14 - WARRIOR

### PURRFECT ANGELZ

NOV. 23 - SPEICHER

### AARON TIPPIN

NOV. 25 - WARRIOR

### AVENGED SEVENFOLD

NOV. 27 - MAREZ

### GIN BLOSSOMS

NOV. 29 - SPEICHER



For more information regarding the card, spouses and Family members of deployed Soldiers should contact their Family Readiness Group Leaders, and Soldiers should contact their chain of command.



# CULTURAL CORNER:

## FOR A TRADITIONAL BEDOUIN WEDDING, NO QUICK TRIP TO CITY HALL

**By Florinda Lucero**  
**Human Terrain Analysis**  
**Team, USD-N**

A traditional Bedouin wedding includes a week of festivities and begins with Al Khoutha, or the Proposal, where the groom's father accompanied by close relatives and friends, visits the bride's father to seek his daughter's hand for his son. Central to the ceremony is traditional mint tea; very sweet and strong, the tea has an aroma as intense as

that of gahwa, or Arabic coffee.

Next is Al Akhd, which involves negotiations between the two families and mutual agreement upon the fine points of the marriage contract. The wedding preparations get underway with the Laylat Al Henna, or henna party, where friends of the bride decorate her hands and feet with henna. Also known as Mehendi, or Mehndi in other cultures, a myth associated with henna painting is that the bride would do no housework until the henna wore off,

hence the tradition of trying for the darkest most long lasting dye possible. This is followed by Al Aadaa, where the bride's friends tease the groom to pay a fee for decorating his bride.

The designs on the wedding dress are embroidered across the front and back of the dress, down the sleeves and along the main seams. Today, machine-stitched embroidery replaces the traditional hand embroidery. Traditionally, a prospective bridegroom would pay the bride's father a dowry, or bride price, part of which the father used to buy jewelry for his daughter.

Under Muslim law, any jewelry bestowed on the bride in this nuptial settlement becomes her property and insurance in times of need. Traditionally, Bedouin jewelry is made of silver, usually studded with amber, coral, agate, cornelian, pearls or turquoise. Most pieces are large and usually embossed with fine calligraphy and decorated with Islamic symbols.

On the day of the wedding ceremony, a procession of the bridegroom's family will arrive at the bride's house where they are welcomed with singing and dancing accompanied by the traditional music instruments, the rababa and dalouka, a type of violin and drum. Men perform Al Ardha, or the war dance, armed with swords and whips. Women from the bride's

family display the Zaahbaah, a trousseau filled with gifts from the groom's family, traditionally including clothing and jewelry and items for the home.

The women and men sit sep-

**A myth associated with henna painting is that the bride would do no housework until the henna wore off, hence the tradition of trying for the darkest most long lasting dye possible.**



Traditional vintage Bedouin wedding jewelry made of solid silver.

Continued from WARRIORS, pg. 7

would not be setting a competitive pace, and adjusted their goal accordingly.

"The idea was to finish, not to actually place or win the event," Stanford said. "We wanted to finish the way we were and finish strong."

Though they were nowhere near the front of the pack, they

never quit, constantly pushing toward the finish line. In the final minutes of their race, they even managed to pass a few other competitors.

"We passed three people up in the last mile, and in the last 200 meters, we sprinted in and passed three more people up," Stanford said. "It just felt pretty

good to finish strong, sprint it out and complete it."

The conditioning prior to the event seemed to pay off.

Meberg said his knees and ankles were a little sore, but for the most part, his muscles felt strong and remarkably, he had no blisters.

By achieving their goal of

finishing the race in their tactical vests, Stanford and Meberg said they felt they had demonstrated the true resiliency of the American Soldier.

# ★★★★ NEWS FROM THE HOMEFRONT ★★★★★

## Hickenlooper becomes Colorado's next governor

www.krdo.com

DENVER, Colo. – Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper says voters in Colorado responded to a positive campaign in electing him the state's next governor.

The former brew pub owner benefited from the collapse of GOP nominee Dan Maes and a split in the state Republican Party. Immigration hard-liner Tom Tancredo got in the race as a third-party candidate but couldn't overcome Hickenlooper's widespread popularity.

In accepting his victory, Hickenlooper urged Coloradans "to focus on what we are for, not what we are against."

Maes told supporters in Colorado Springs that he fought the good fight, saying, "We never quit."

Maes won the Republican primary but suffered a series of campaign gaffes.

Hickenlooper replaces Democratic Gov. Bill Ritter, who decided in not to run for re-election.

## Corbett wins race for Pa. governor

www.abc27.com

HARRISBURG, Pa. – Calling it an "absolutely beautiful day" in Pennsylvania, Republican Tom Corbett has claimed victory in the race for governor.

Corbett, the current state attorney general, announced his victory at his Pittsburgh campaign headquarters moments after his Democratic challenger, Dan Onorato, conceded defeat.

"Thank you for your vote. Thank you for your confidence in me," Corbett said in his victory speech. "I promise you I am going to work very hard for the people of Pennsylvania."

With 99 percent of the vote counted, an unofficial tally indicates Corbett collected more than 2.1 million votes while Onorato had over 1.7 million votes.

Onorato will return to his job as the elected executive of Allegheny County. His second term expires at the end of next year.

"We brought up a lot of good issues and we fought the battle," Onorato told supporters in his concession speech. "We fought the battle and we came up a little short today, but our voice was heard."

Corbett's running mate, Jim Cawley, will be the next Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania. He is currently a commissioner in Bucks County.

## Deal is next Georgia governor

www.wsbtv.com

ATLANTA, Ga. – Nathan Deal overcame questions about ethics and financial troubles to become the 82nd governor of Georgia on Tuesday night.

Deal proclaimed victory before a raucous crowd of Republican supporters inside the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Buckhead.

"We're going to make you proud," Deal pledged minutes after announcing Democrat Roy Barnes conceded the race.

Deal, a nine-term former congressman from Gainesville, said, "We're going to make this state great. We're going to show the rest of the nation what Georgia can do, and what you have already heard we have a great slate of people who are going to be working with me."

Deal received 53 percent of the vote, and Barnes received 43 percent.

## Richt apologizes for coach's choking gesture

www.wsbtv.com

ATHENS, Ga. – Georgia coach Mark Richt said assistant Todd Grantham was caught up in the emotions of an overtime game when he gave a choke sign to Florida kicker Chas Henry.

A television snapshot from Sun Sports in Florida shows Grantham, Georgia's defensive coordinator, with one hand on his throat as Henry lined up for his winning field goal in the Gators' 34-31 win on Saturday, Nov. 6.

When asked about the unusual gesture by his assistant, Richt said Tuesday, Nov. 2, that he doesn't think Grantham is "necessarily proud of it." Richt says Grantham will "learn from it and move on," but did not say he faces any disciplinary action.

Georgia quarterback Aaron Murray says Grantham, the former Dallas Cowboys assistant, is a fiery and animated coach. Murray says he doesn't think Grantham's choke sign was a big deal.

## Democrat Neil Abercrombie elected Hawaii governor

mauinews.com

HONOLULU, Hawaii – Democrat Neil Abercrombie has been elected Hawaii's next governor.

Abercrombie will be the state's first Democratic governor in eight years, succeeding GOP Gov. Linda Lingle when he is sworn in on Dec. 6.

Abercrombie, a former 10-term congressman who represented urban Honolulu, defeated Republican James "Duke" Aiona.

Abercrombie's victory also made former state Democratic Party Chairman Brian Schatz the new lieutenant governor. In Hawaii, candidates for the state's top two posts run on a ticket.

Aiona had been lieutenant governor. His running mate was state Rep. Lynn Finnegan.

Early returns showed Abercrombie with 58 percent of the vote and a nearly 19,000-vote lead over Aiona.

## Marathon runner honors wounded in unique way

www.nbcwashington.com

TOPEKA, Kansas – Republican Sam Brownback is returning home to be governor of Kansas after 16 years in Washington.

Brownback has defeated Democratic state Sen. Tom Holland in his bid to reclaim the office that Democrats held the past eight years.

Trailing Brownback and Holland were Libertarian Andrew Gray and the Reform Party's Ken Cannon.

Brownback replaces Gov. Mark Parkinson, who assumed the job in 2009 when then-Gov. Kathleen Sebelius resigned to become secretary of U.S. Health and Human Services.

Brownback will take office in January and will work with the Republican-controlled Legislature to revive the state's lagging economy and shaky budget status.